All this work was so much training for the main object he had in view, viz. to become a practical geologist. In this connexion, during a short trip to Switzerland in the autumn of 1866, he met Marshall Hall, through whom he obtained introductions to several well-known geologists. From such men as Morris, Etheridge, and Blake, to mention no others, he received instruction in palæontology, and thus early in the seventies he was sufficiently advanced to be able to contribute to the literature of his favourite study. He became a Fellow of the Geological Society in May 1867, just a fortnight before he changed his name to Hudleston.

From the year 1872 onwards he continued to write papers on various geological subjects, while he also participated in the management of the several societies with which he was connected. It is probable that he was the only person who has been Secretary and President, both of the Geologists' Association and of the Geological Society. In 1897 he was awarded the Wollaston Medal; in 1898 he was President of Section C at the Bristol meeting of the British Association; and so recently as last summer (1908) he was deputed by the Council to represent the Geological Society of London at the Darwin-Wallace Jubilee meeting of the Linnean Society. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1884.

Mr. Hudleston died at his residence, West Holme, Wareham, on January 29th, 1909.

XVI.—Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.

[Continued from p. 188.]

25. 'Annals of Scottish Natural History.'

[The Annals of Scottish Natural History. October 1908 and January 1909.]

In the first of these numbers Mr. J. Paterson continues his able Report on Scottish Ornithology for 1907, and in it we again find matter of the greatest interest. Linota rostrata, Pyrrhula erythrina, Emberiza melanocephala,

E. pusilla, E. hortulana, Turtur communis, Totanus ochropus, and other species of less importance are recorded on Mr. W. E. Clarke's authority from Fair Isle, while it may be noted that Corvus corone has also occurred there; an early nest of Phalacrocorax graculus is noticed from Orkney (Feb. 24th); two pairs of Somateria mollissima remained from April to August on the Solway Firth; a pair of Œdicnemus scolopax are reported from Lerwick on May 20th; Fringilla montifringilla and Scolopax rusticula (cf. Annals, 1907, p. 144) seem to have been unusually plentiful in Scotland; and, finally, forty-two nests of Megalestris catarrhactes were counted in the breeding-season at Hermaness in Unst.

A short paper by Mr. W. Evans on the origin of the present colony of Great Spotted Woodpeckers in Scotland, in which the author inclines to the view of an English rather than a Scandinavian source of supply, is preceded by an article on the same species by Mr. Harvie-Brown, who elaborates and maps out for us with his usual accuracy the gradual extension of the bird's range since 1841 or 1851. In the map present summer-records and records of breeding, ancient records, and those of winter are duly represented by various signs or dates, so that we can take in the facts at a glance, and see for ourselves how distinct this new colony is from the old, whose breeding area lay to the north of the Grampians. In the letterpress the gradual extension northward and southward since the first nest was found in 1887 at Duns, in Berwickshire, is carefully traced, while a specimen of the schedules used in the investigation is printed for the guidance of others. The author furthermore discusses the route by which this species is likely to spread still further to the north, and ventures to prophecy that it will be by wav of the Dee.

Mr. H. B. Watt follows with a list of Scottish Heronries, past and present, but we are afraid that he has omitted to consult certain books or papers on local avifauna; Muirhead's 'Birds of Berwickshire' and the articles in the 'History of the Berwickshire Naturalists' Club' would, for instance, have enabled him to be more accurate with regard to some

of the Heronries of "Tweed," while the writer does not distinguish accidental cases of the breeding of a single pair from a Heronry proper.

In the January number we find three consecutive ornithological papers. Mr. Eagle Clarke reports the occurrence of *Phylloscopus borealis* at Fair Isle, the first record for Britain, and the second for Western Europe; the Duchess of Bedford writes a couple of pages of Bird Notes from the Outer Hebrides, with notices of *Muscicapa parva* and *Ruticilla titys*; and Miss E. Baxter continues her useful records from the Isle of May, and gives details of her observations and those of Mr. Maccuish in 1908. Bluethroats, Yellow-browed Warblers, Pied Flycatchers, Bramblings, one Scarlet Grosbeak, and one Wryneck appear to be the most notable of the species met with.

In the Zoological Notes we wish to draw special attention to the correction of a statement as to the Lesser Whitethroat nesting in the "Tay" area, and to the records of the Blueheaded Wagtail, Hawfinch, and Gadwall.

26. 'Aquila,' 1905-1907 \* (vols. xii.-xiv.).

[Aquila: Zeitschrift für Ornithologie. Redact. Otto Herman. Tom. xii.-xiv. Budapest, 1905-7.]

'Aquila,' as we all know, is the scientific organ of the "Officium Hungaricum Ornithologicum," and the yearly volume is issued at Budapest with unfailing regularity. We have now before us those for three years—namely, 1905, 1906, 1907. The Journal is naturally for the most part devoted to matters pertaining to the Birds of the Kingdom of Hungary; but it should be carefully studied by all who are interested in the Ornithology of the Western Palæarctic Region, as it contains a mass of information about species little known in the minute fragment of Europe which we inhabit. Bird-migration in Hungary is specially studied by a host of observers, and reports on this subject will be found in every volume of 'Aquila.' In that

<sup>\*</sup> See 'The Ibis,' 1905, p. 269.

for 1905 is contained an excellent account by the late Prof. Newton of the three Naumanns and of the festival held in their honour at Cothen, when the "Naumann-denkmal" was inaugurated. This is followed by a report on the "Proceedings" of the International Ornithological Congress of 1905. We may also call attention to Mr. Herman's important essay on Geronticus eremita and its former existence in Europe in vol. xiv. (1907).

#### 27. ' The Auk.'

[The Auk. A Quarterly Journal of Ornithology. Vol. xxv. Nos. 2, 3, 4 (April-October 1908).]

The April number of our American contemporary begins with a long article by Mr. C. C. Adams on "The Ecological Succession of Birds," a title somewhat in the nature of a "hard saying" for the multitude. The author considers it high time that more attention was devoted to the nature of the birds' surroundings, and to the effect of the permanence or change of those surroundings on the birds themselves. He also thinks that present works refer too exclusively to political or other convenient "areas," which are often of a highly composite nature—hill, moor, marsh, and so forth. He speaks for his own country, of course, and not for Britain, where we are deluged with books on the birds of the marsh, the birds of the shore, and the like; but we quite agree with him in his estimate of the importance of a bird's environment, and the changes which that environment makes in the creature itself. if indeed it does not necessitate its departure.

In the April and October numbers, Mr. Ruthven Deane gives details of a letter of Audubon to his family, of his letters of introduction carried on his Missouri River Expedition, and of the fate of the copperplates of the folio edition of the 'Birds of America,' coupled with a sketch of the engravers. Mr. Deane is a well-known authority on such matters, and we are glad to read the articles from his pen referring to the great American Ornithologist, and also that by Dr. C. H. Merriam on the "King Cameos of Audubon" in the October number.

Next we may allude to articles by Dr. J. A. Allen on the vexed question of *Strix* v. *Aluco* (wherein his conclusions agree with those of Prof. Newton and Dr. Coues), and on *Columbina* v. *Chamæpelia*; while these serve to draw our special attention to the Fourteenth Supplement to the A. O. U. Check-List given in the July number.

The chief distributional paper is that of Messrs. Beyer, Allison, and Kopman on the birds of Louisiana (Pt. IV. April, Pt. V. October), a most useful piece of work and far more than a mere list of species. In the April number we have also articles by Mr. W. A. Dawson on the Avifauna of the Olympiades (a name he proposes for three reserves among the islands off the West Coast of Washington State), by Mr. H. G. Smith on that of Colorado, by Mr. E. S. Woodruff on that of Shannon and Carter Counties, Missouri; in July others by Mr. R. H. Harlow on that of Eastern Pennsylvania and by Mr. C. J. Pennock on that of Delaware; in October by Mr. A. A. Saunders on that of Central Alabama, by Mr. J. M. Edson on that of the Bellingham Bay Region in the north-west of the United States, by Mr. E. Thompson Seton on that of Manitoba, by Mr. N. Hollister on that of the Needles Region, California, and by Mr. A. B. Reagan on that of the Rosebud Indian Reservation, South Dakota.

Returning to the April number we find Mr. Ruthven Deane again to the fore with a short paper on the Passenger Pigeon in confinement (cf. 'Auk,' xiii. p. 234) and the probability of its immediate extinction; in July Mr. E. S. Cameron gives us the benefit of his experiences with regard to the Golden Eagle in Montana, Mr. J. H. Riley discusses the broad-winged Hawks of the West Indies, and describes as a new subspecies Buteo platypterus insulicola, Mr. E. J. Court writes on the Treganza Blue Heron (with two plates), Mr. F. H. Allen on Larus kumlieni and other northern Gulls at Boston, Mr. J. H. Fleming on the destruction of Olor columbianus at Niagara, and Mr. A. H. Clark on the Macaw of Dominica (which he provisionally terms Ara atwoodi). The last-named paper should be read in connexion with the

review of Mr. Rothschild's 'Extinct Birds' in the April number. Finally, in October, Mr. E. S. Cameron describes the changes of plumage in *Buteo swainsoni*.

# 28. 'The Avicultural Magazine.'

[Avicultural Magazine. The Journal of the Avicultural Society. New Series. Vol. vi. Nos. 11, 12, Vol. vii. Nos. 1-5 (Sept. 1908-March 1909.)]

The Editor of this Magazine, Mr. D. Seth-Smith, has the first claim upon our attention for his attractive article on his visit to Australia on behalf of the Zoological Society. This article is continued from September to March, and gives an account of his sojourn in West Australia, with trips to the mining centre of Kalgoorlie, the Forest region, and the Mammoth cave; from Freemantle he proceeded by sea to Adelaide, and thence by train to Melbourne, the Zoological Gardens at both of these places being a great attraction, while at the latter he took a further trip to the Penton Hills. To an aviculturist the whole story is especially interesting on account of the large number of Australian species of birds that may be kept in confinement.

The allusion to Zoological Gardens leads naturally to the mention of a paper in November by Mr. R. I. Pocock on the breeding-habits of the genus Crax, as exemplified in the mating of a female of  $C.\ hecki$  with a male of  $C.\ globicera$  at Regent's Park. The nest of twigs in a tree built by the male, the period of incubation by the female, the two white eggs, the remarkable precocity of the young and the method of feeding them are all duly chronicled, and give much information to the ornithologist.

Success in breeding rare species in captivity seems to be now almost more the rule than the exception, a fact which must be most gratifying to the Society and on which we congratulate it most heartily. In his well-known aviaries at Gooilust, Mr. F. E. Blaauw has reared many rare species, among which *Gallus sonnerati* may be particularized (Nov.); and at Woburn the Duchess of Bedford has been equally successful, especially with several species of Cranes (Sept.).

In February, Mr. W. H. St. Quintin gives us a coloured plate of the Waxwing and another of its egg, while relating his unfortunate failure to rear the young that were hatched in 1903; in March he follows this up with notes on the breeding of the Eider and other Ducks, Tragopans, Capercaillies, and so forth at Scampston. In October Mr. G. H. Gurney, a new member, signalizes his advent by a good paper on *Centropus superciliosus*, brought by him from British East Africa, which is preceded by a shorter notice in October on the breeding of *Aramides ypecaha* in his aviaries.

In October, November, and March those constant contributors Mr. H. D. Astley and Mr. R. Phillipps join forces to write of Agapornis nigrigenis (col. pl.), and give an excellent account of its breeding, wherein we wish to call special attention to the habit noticed in some members of the genus of carrying nesting-material among the feathers so as to leave the bill free for climbing purposes. In September, October, January, and March, Mr. Astley also writes on the nesting of Turacus corythaix, on rare birds from New Guinea (especially the Paradise-birds in Mrs. Johnstone's collection), on certain Thrushes, and on Bower-birds. September, moreover, Mr. E. J. Brooks gives an account of the breeding in captivity of Artamus superciliosus, and Mr. Williams of that of Conurus æruginosus; while Mr. C. B. Smith has furnished a series of papers in the various numbers on the display of the Monal Pheasant, on the Rock Ptarmigan and Harlequin Duck, and the nesting of Nothoprocta maculosa and Francolinus vulgaris on his premises.

In November and December Mrs. Johnstone and Sir William Ingram are once more to the fore with articles on Paradise-birds, the former writing on *Cicinnurus regius*, of which she possessed two males and three females (col. pl.), and the latter on *Paradisea rudolphi* brought from New Guinea by Messrs. Horsbrugh and Stalker. In October Mr. T. H. Newman describes his successful attempt at breeding *Geophaps scripta*.

Lack of space forbids us to give details of all the papers, but Dr. Butler should be mentioned as contributing two in January and February, and Capt. Perreau contributes "Some Notes on Indian Ornithology" to the same numbers; while Mr. B. R. Horsbrugh gives in September an account of the breeding of *Turnix lepurana* as observed by him in South Africa.

29. Brogger on Birds' Bones from the Norwegian Kitchenmiddens.

[Vistefundet en ældre stenalders kjökkenmödding fra Jæderen. Av A. W. Brogger. Stavanger, 1908. 102 pp., 5 pls.]

At Viste, in the parish of Rendeberg, on the southeastern coast of Norway, not far from Stavanger, the remains of an ancient dwelling-house of the older neolithic stone-age were discovered in the autumn of 1907. This was accompanied by a large kitchen-midden, containing masses of shells of the sea-mollusks which had been consumed for food. But with these were also exhumed, after a careful search, remains of numerous other animals-Mammals, Birds, and Fishes. The bird-bones have been examined by our Foreign Member, Dr. Winge, who has kindly supplied us with a copy of this interesting memoir. They are referred to 27 species, nearly all well-known inhabitants of the adjacent sea-coast. But amongst them are also numerous fragments of the bones of the Great Auk (Alca impennis), which prove that this bird was used there in past ages as a regular article of food.

The memoir is well illustrated by five lithographic plates and numerous text-figures.

30. Carter on a supposed new Grass-Wren.

[Description of a supposed new Grass-Wren. By T. Carter, M.B.O.U. Vict. Nat. xxv. p. 86.]

Mr. Carter describes Amytis varia as a new species, comparable with A. gigantura Milligan, Vict. Nat. xviii. p. 27, but probably different. It is, we suppose, from West Australia, but the exact locality is not stated.

# 31. Chapman's 'On Safari.'

[On Safari. Big-Game Hunting in British East Africa, with Studies in Bird-life. By Abel Chapman. With 170 Illustrations. London: Edward Arnold, 1908. 1 vol., 8vo.]

"Big-Game," we must allow, is the principal theme of Mr. Chapman's volume, but the references to Birds and the text-figures which illustrate them, taken from the author's sketches, are so numerous and so attractive that we are quite justified in calling it a Bird-book also. "Safari" is a new word, and, we are told, "has no precise equivalent in our British tongue." Yet, being in daily use in East Africa and apparently meaning a "huntingexpedition after big game," it is a convenient expression which Mr. Chapman has taken leave to introduce into "our common language." The author, on his three trips, entered British East Africa-" probably the most glorious hunting-field still extant, and certainly the most accessible" by the usual steam-route to Mombasa, and by the so-called "Uganda Railway," which, however, does not touch Uganda at all. He went straight up into the great "equatorial trench," and encamped at various places in the highland district which shuts off Lake Victoria from the Eastern Ocean. On each occasion he spent many happy days in pursuit of big game in that hunter's paradise. We will not follow him into his account of the slaughter of many mammals, which are not only fully described, but splendidly illustrated by well-drawn pictures taken from life, but we must at once call attention to his frequent remarks on the bird-life of the country, to which, as a well-known Member of the B. O. U., he was bound to attend. These remarks are scattered throughout the volume, and relate to Sun-birds. Louries, Whydahs, Social Weavers, Nightjars, Rollers, Shrikes, Touracos, and a host of other forms which the luxuriant Avifauna of Tropical Africa possesses in such abundance. Although there are numerous scientific articles on the Birds of British East Africa, few ornithologists (except perhaps Mr. F. J. Jackson) have given us such good field-notes. Much may be learned from what Mr. Chapman

writes on the subject, and much from the excellent little sketches which he introduces into his text. It has been stated elsewhere that the Wood-Hoopoe (Irrisor) climbs trees like a Creeper, but this has never been so clearly shown as in Mr. Chapman's drawing (p. 243), which we have kindly been allowed to reproduce.



Irrisor erythrorhynchus.

The appendix of "rough veld-notes on bird-life in British East Africa," which concludes the volume, is, in our opinion, by no means so "valueless to the scientific ornithologist" as the author supposes. It presents us with a good general idea of the varied forms of Birds characteristic of this favoured portion of the Ethiopian Region, and contains many interesting observations on their habits. We have read Mr. Chapman's adventures "on Safari" with pleasure

and interest, and are sure that many other Members of our Union will do the same.

# 32. Collett on the Great Auk in Norway.

[Nogle Bemærkninger om *Alca impennis* i Norge. Af R. Collett. Christiania Vidensk.-Selsk. Forhandl. 1907, No. 8. Christiania, 1907.]

Dr. Collett here gives a sketch of our knowledge of the Great Auk in Norway, beginning with Linnæus, who, in his 'Fauna Suecica' in 1746, cautiously says "habitat in mari Norvegico, rarius!" He then proceeds to the recent discovery of its remains in kitchen-middens on the Norwegian coast. There is only one complete stuffed specimen of the bird in any of the Norwegian museums, of which an uncoloured plate is given. The bones from the kitchen-middens now in the Museum at Christiania are likewise described and figured; they consist of fragments of the humerus and coracoid.

Dr. Collett moreover describes a considerable series of the bones of the Great Auk which were exhumed by P. Stuwitz in 1842 on Funk Island, north of Newfoundland, and are also in the Christiania Museum.

# 33. Dresser on Palæarctic Birds' Eggs.

[Eggs of the Birds of Europe, including all the Species inhabiting the Western Palæarctic Area. By H. E. Dresser. Parts XIII., XIV., XV., XVI.]

These four parts of Mr. Dresser's work treat of the Corvidæ, Cypselidæ, Caprimulgidæ, Picidæ, Alcedinidæ, Coracidæ, Meropidæ, Upupidæ, Cuculidæ, Strigidæ, Phalacrocoracidæ, Sulidæ, Pelecanidæ, Ardeidæ, Ciconiidæ, Ibididæ (with Platalea), Phænicopteridæ, and Anatidæ. The eggs figured are those of members of the same families, with the addition of Phasianidæ, Tetraonidæ, Rallidæ, Gruidæ, and Otididæ. The plates, as a whole, are even better than their precursors, and the three-colour process of photography is fully justifying its use for the representation of Oological specimens. The letterpress contains much interesting

matter, especially as regards those species whose homes lie to the eastward, and is in most cases sufficiently full as well as accurate. But the author does not appear to have brought his information quite up to date with regard to the distribution of species in Britain, or, perhaps we should say, might advantageously give more ample details of that distribution in cases where fresh information has been acquired by those so carefully working at the British Avifauna.

The Little Owl has now a far more extended range in England than that here assigned to it, and Bewick's Swan is numerous every winter in parts of the north-west of Scotland, and not only in some winters. Further particulars, moreover, might be added in the case of such Ducks as the Gadwall, Shoveler, and Wigeon. Mr. Dresser seems to imply that the Shoveler's nesting in Scotland is a matter of doubt, though it is known to do so in several parts, and the woodcut given depicts a nest from Fifeshire. Again, the Gannet is said to breed on "Sulisgeir and Suliskerry." Now Suliskerry is a flat island (as a "skerry" always is), and no Gannet would think of nesting there. As is well known to residents in Northern Scotland, and may be gathered from such works as 'A Vertebrate Fauna of the Orkney Islands,' p. 160, the bird only breeds on "Stack" (or East Sulisgeir) and West Sulisgeir. The Stack is an almost inaccessible precipitous island and has no connexion whatever with "Skerry."

With a few such exceptions the work is excellent, and gives us much information as to the new subspecies that have recently been proposed, though not invariably accepted by our author. It will be noticed that Mr. Dresser no longer maintains the specific title of *Corvus leptonyx* for Irby's Raven (*C. tingitanus*) and that he upholds the specific distinctness of the Grey-backed and Carrion Crows, while he appears to doubt the fact of the egg of the Cuckoo shewing a resemblance to that of the foster-parent, therein differing from the great majority of ornithologists.

A printer's error of some importance is to be found under

Caprimulgus ruficollis, where "Kellingworth" should be "Killingworth."

# 34. Giglioli on Italian Birds.

[Avifauna Italica, nuovo Elenco Sistematico delle Specie di Uccelli, stationarie, di Passaggio o di accidentale Comparsa in Italia; coi nomi volgari, colla loro distribuzione geografica, con notizie intorno alla loro Biologia, ed un esame critico delle Variazioni e delle cosidette sotto specie. Dal Enrico Hillyer Giglioli. Florence, 1907. Pp. i-xxiv, 1-784.]

In the year 1886 Professor Giglioli earned the gratitude of the ornithological world by compiling his first 'Avifauna Italica,' consequent upon a shorter memoir in the Roman Annals of Agriculture. He now gives us, in what may be termed a second edition, the results of his labours from 1886 to the present time, pending the completion of his illustrated folio work, 'Iconografia dell' Avifauna Italica.' Much new information has been amassed in these twenty years, and the aid of the Ministers of Public Works and Marine has been invoked, and not in vain, to the assistance of Ornithologists, chiefly with regard to the Migration and the Distribution of species. Further statistics are, as the author tells us, still needed; but we have here a very satisfactory account of the birds of the Kingdom of Italy.

Proper attention is paid to the new subspecies or species that have occurred in the country, more especially where "neogenesis," or the birth of new forms (e. g. Athene chiarardiæ), has been asserted; due weight is also given to the question of geographical races.

Several of the specific names used are not those with which we are most familiar, but it would be impossible in a short space to discuss their validity.

We must, in conclusion, draw particular attention to the excellent Introduction, which gives an account of the progress of Ornithology in Italy and a statement of the Professor's creed. He declares himself an unsparing opponent of the fashion of founding new species or subspecies on very slight, or mere individual, characters, and considers that such characters are unfortunately often confounded with those

that are truly specific, while he also inveighs against the unnecessary multiplication of synonyms and the use of tautonyms, and reminds us, as is very necessary nowadays, that nomenclature in Zoology is a means and not an end. Given proper characteristics, he is as ready as another to propose a new species: he is neither a "lumper" nor a "splitter."

# 35. The Grouse Disease Inquiry.

[Board of Agriculture and Fisheries. Grouse Disease Inquiry. Interim Report. London, 1908.]

We have lately received a copy of this Report, the evidence in which tends to certain conclusions, though the Final Report alone will justify our adherence to them as absolute facts. It appears that there may be two forms of Grouse Disease: firstly, the chronic, wasting, and generally fatal form, where the parasitic worms normal to the bird become particularly harmful in its weakened condition; and secondly, the acute form, considered by Klein to be an infectious pneumonia connected with a special organism. As, however, this organism is also found in healthy Grouse, and individuals said to be attacked by acute disease in their full vigour have proved to be in an emaciated condition, Klein's views are open to doubt, and the existence of a second form of disease is held to be not proved at present.

One fact, however, has been made abundantly clear from the evidence of owners of moors, keepers, and local correspondents in touch with the appointed "head-centres": namely, that there is an intimate connexion between health and the food-supply, which consists, as is well known, chiefly, though not entirely, of the shoots of Calluna (Ling). Overstocking a moor simply means keeping more birds than the food-supply can maintain. Minor points to which attention is drawn are that Grouse do not eat frosted heather, and that the cocks succumb chiefly in spring and the hens in autumn, when the sexes are respectively at their weakest.

It would not be fair to judge the Commission on the strength of the work of the first two and a half years alone,

and we must await the Final Report before definitely criticizing; but certainly a good beginning has been made by studying the bird in its normal state and the conditions on which the health of moors depends; while beyond this Mr. E. A. Wilson reports on the specimens examined and their cropcontents, Mr. A. E. Shipley on the Parasites, Mr. J. C. Fryer on the Insect Life of Grouse Moors, Mr. H. Hammond Smith on the observation-area established at Frimley, in Surrey, and Mr. R. H. Rastall on grits found in the gizzards of Game Birds.

Full discussions of the Bacteriology, the Causes of Mortality, the Economic Value of Grouse Shootings, and especially the subject of Heather-burning, so important a factor in the health of a moor, have been held over until the Final Report stage.

#### 36. 'Irish Naturalist.'

[The Irish Naturalist. A Monthly Journal of General Irish Natural History. January to December 1908.]

Comparatively few papers on Ornithology are to be found in the pages of the 'Irish Naturalist' for last year, but in April Dr. Scharff writes on the Determination of Sex in the Woodcock, in June Mr. A. Williams discusses Bird-Protection in Co. Dublin, followed by an article in September on Bird Life in Dublin Bay, and in October Prof. Patten gives an accout of his "Rambles on Achill Island."

Unfortunately Dr. Scharff's careful investigations were fruitless, and no reliable distinguishing character could be discovered between the male and female Woodcock. Mr. Williams's papers will be read with interest, and the titles speak for themselves. Prof. Patten spent more than a fortnight in September in Achill, and occupied himself in watching and photographing the interesting birds he met with, but he does not furnish us with any new records.

In the "Notes" we may call attention to accounts of the overland flight of Sea-birds by Messrs. Praeger, Harvie-Brown, and Ussher; to the first occurrence of Richard's Pipit in Ireland (p. 59); to observations on Great Shearwaters and Fulmars off the coast by Mr. Ussher; to notices

of migrants at Rockabill by Mr. Barrington, and of Stock Doves in Wexford by Major Barrett-Hamilton.

The November number is devoted to a full account of the Dublin Meeting of the British Association.

# 37. McGregor on Philippine Birds.

[Notes on a Collection of Birds from Siquijor, Philippine Islands. By Richard C. McGregor. Philipp. Journ. of Science, iii. no. 6, Sept. 1908.]

Our American friends continue their excellent work in the Philippines. The establishment of a "Biological Laboratory" and of a "Journal of Science" so soon after their arrival on the scene are feats that may well put other Governments to shame. As regards Birds at least they have an engrossing subject before them. The preparation of an 'Avifauna Philippinensis,' and the correct working out of the numerous representative species in the different islands, will be a task of much labour but of intense interest.

In the present paper, Mr. McGregor, who is now the leading ornithologist at Manila, gives us an account of a collection from the coral rock of Siquijor, a little island lying close to Negros, and apparently comparatively recently provided with bird-life. Three species, however, have had time to develop into well-marked representatives—namely, Dicæum besti, Loriculus siquijorensis, and Iole siquijorensis. Mr. McGregor enumerates 87 species from this island, thus adding 9 to the list given by Worcester and Bourns in 1898\*. Among these is Acanthopneuste borealis (Blasius), of which two specimens were obtained.

# 38. Mair's ' Mackenzie Basin.'

[Through the Mackenzie Basin, a Narrative of the Athabasca and Peace River Treaty Expedition of 1899, and Notes on the Birds and Mammals of Northern Canada, by Roderick MacFarlane. 1 vol., 8vo. 494 pp. London: Simpkin, Marshall, & Co., 1908.]

This volume contains in the first place the narrative of an expedition sent into the "Great Mackenzie Basin" in 1899,

<sup>\*</sup> Pr. U.S. Nat. Mus. xx. p. 564.

in order to come to terms with the native Indians as to the surrender of their land-rights to the Canadian Government. In the second half the valuable field-notes made by the author's friend, Roderick MacFarlane, for many years a Chief Factor of the Hudson Bay Company, are reprinted. They have already appeared in the 'Proceedings of the U.S. National Museum' (see 'Ibis,' 1892, p. 335), but are well worthy of repetition. The specimens collected appear to have gone to Washington, not to Ottawa, which would have been a more appropriate destination for them.

#### 39. Martens on Magellanic Birds.

[Ergebnisse der Hamburger Magalhaenischen Sammelreise, 1892-3. Herausgegeben vom naturhistorischen Museum zu Hamburg. Vol. I. Hamburg, 1896-1907. Vögel bearbeitet von G. H. Martens (Hamburg).]

Among the articles on the results of the Magellanic Collecting-Expedition sent out by the City of Hamburg in 1902-3, under the leadership of Dr. Michaelsen, is a chapter on Birds, prepared by Herr G. H. Martens, of Hamburg. The collection made on this occasion is stated to have consisted of 60 specimens, referable to 42 species. The examination of these specimens, which were placed in the Natural History Museum of Hamburg, did not result in any new discoveries, but this, considering the small size of the collection and the well-known features of the Avifauna of the country visited, does not seem very wonderful.

Herr Martens has consoled himself for his disappointment at the meagre results (as regards birds) of the Magellanic Collecting-Expedition by compiling a List of the birds of the South Polar area, which, according to his investigations, embraces about 299 species referable to 176 genera. But we think that he has been unwise to include in his List the land-birds of the islands adjoining New Zealand (Chatham Island, Auckland Islands, &c.). The sea-birds, it is true, are nearly the same all round the South Polar seas; but the land-birds of the New Zealand Islands are quite distinct,

and belong entirely to the Australian Region. The List, therefore, presents rather an incongruous mixture of Neotropical and Australian forms of bird-life.

#### 40. Martorelli on the Parrots in the University of Naples.

[Elenco dei Papagalli del Museo Zoologico Universitario di Napoli con note ed illustrazioni. Dal Prof. Giacinto Martorelli. Ann. Mus. Zool. Univers. Napoli, n. s. ii. No. 4 (1908).]

At the request of Prof. Monticelli, the Director, Prof. Martorelli has undertaken the arrangement of the fine series of Psittacidæ represented in the collection of the Royal Museum of Naples. He wisely follows Count Salvadori's nomenclature and arrangement, and gives a few notes on the rarities. *Pionus reichenowi* of Heine is figured.

# 41. Mullens on the Bibliography of British Birds.

[A List of Books relating to British Birds, published before the Year 1815, from the Library of W. H. Mullens, M.A., LL.M., F.R.S. Exhibited at the Corporation Museum, Hastings, during June 1906. With Seven Plates. Hastings and St. Leonard's Nat. Hist. Soc. Occasional Publications, No. 3. Reprinted, with additions and corrections.]

Mr. Mullens has kindly sent us a copy of this pamphlet, which he hopes to make the precursor of a larger work on the Bibliography of British Birds. Such a work was originally planned by Mr. W. R. Butterfield, who, in a short preface, announces that he has withdrawn in favour of Mr. Mullens; while, from the extent of the latter's library, it is evident that a better successor could not have been selected. The word "additions" on the cover of the pamphlet leaves us a little doubtful whether the books recorded are all in the author's possession, but we believe that such is the case. We are by no means desirous of criticizing so useful a list, but wish to suggest the addition, in the larger work projected, of more information as to the writers, their birthplace, works, and so forth. Mr. Mullens will, no doubt, also include books that he may not himself

possess, and notes on writers on British Birds quoted by such authors as Aldrovandi (e. g., Elliot & Wotton); certainly he should add accounts of the later editions of White's 'Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne,' which he disposes of at present in one line.

In connexion with the work of John Caius, Evans's translation in the Appendix to 'Turner on Birds' is not of the whole, but only of extracts.

# 42. Penard on the Birds of Guiana.

[De Vogels van Guyana (Surinam, Cayenne en Demerara). Door Frederik Paul Penard en Arthur Philip Penard. 1 vol., 8vo. Paramaribo. London: Kegan Paul & Co. 587 pp.]

This is the first portion of a new and original work on the birds of Guiana, prepared by two brothers—Messrs. F. P. and A. P. Penard of Paramaribo. The book, we are given to understand, is the result of a long and arduous study of the subject under most difficult circumstances, of which the want of many necessary books was perhaps one of the smallest. It is chiefly noteworthy on account of the information which it contains on the life-history and habits of many species previously little known except by name. Besides recording their own observations, the authors have received great assistance in this part of their labours from numerous assistant observers, including native Indians, who make their home in the forests and on the rivers of Guiana, and live by shooting and fishing.

Besides the systematic part, which, beginning with the Pygopodes, contains a survey of all the known species of the birds of Guiana up to the end of the Picariæ, the authors give a general and very interesting account of the local distribution of the birds in the various districts and at different seasons of the year. They also endeavour to explain the rather startling ornaments borne by the males of some birds by suggesting their origin from "mental peculiarities" induced by dances, songs, fights, and other habits, and not simply from what is called "sexual selection." Thus the erectile frontal crest of certain Tyrant-birds is

attributed to the result of the exertion caused by the capture of struggling insect-prey, which induces the energetic bird to erect its frontal feathers!

We will reserve our remarks on the general Avifauna of Guiana until the completion of the work by the issue of the second volume, which, we understand, has already reached Holland in manuscript, and will, we hope, be published without much delay. We are not sure that the authors have done well in writing in their native language. It is highly patriotic, no doubt, but we fear that it will interfere with the circulation of the book. English is well understood by all educated Hollanders, and especially by those who read scientific books.

We understand that the collection of bird-skins made by the authors has been acquired by the Tring Museum, and that the accompanying series of eggs (which contains specimens referable to 273 species) has been presented to the Leyden Museum.

# 43. Pycraft on Birds.

[A Book of Birds. By W. P. Pycraft. London, 1908. Pp. i-viii, 1-155, with coloured plates and text-figures.]

Mr. Pycraft has invariably something interesting to relate with regard to Ornithology, but we consider his talents wasted in writing letterpress to accompany the thirty inferior coloured plates contained in this volume, which consists of a general survey of the principal groups of Birds, with special reference to those of Britain and the rest of Europe.

The forms included are for the most part selected with the view of bringing out the differences in anatomical structure, and in this connexion the author warns his readers that similarity of appearance does not necessarily imply close relationship. The instances are well chosen; but for the general public it might have been better to have reduced the number of species and treated the remainder more fully, as may be seen in the case of the Megapodes and Cuckoos.

Nearly thirty pages are devoted to an admirable Introduction, which, after touching upon the descent of Birds from Reptiles, proceeds to discuss their structure and development from the archaic *Archæopteryx* to the present day. Here Mr. Pycraft is in his element, and gives a clear and sufficient account of the osteology, myology, pterylography, featherformation, mechanism of flight, moult, colour-change, airsacs, digestive organs, eggs, and so forth. Excellent woodcuts aid the reader to follow the explanations in the text.

Finally, we pass chapter by chapter through the various Orders and Families of Birds, from the lowest to the highest; but this portion of the book is less successful than the former, scanty details being afforded in many cases and much information being omitted that might have easily been included by the addition of a few more pages. Some of the statements, moreover, are misleading, as when we are told that the Great Skua is "well-nigh extinct, so far as these islands are concerned," and that the Black Redstart is "tolerably common in Great Britain during the summer months."

## 44. Richmond on the Generic Names of Birds.

[Generic Names applied to Birds during the Years 1901 to 1905 inclusive, with further Additions to Waterhouse's 'Index Generum Avium.' By Charles W. Richmond, Assistant Curator, Division of Birds, U.S. National Museum. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xxxv. pp. 583-655 (1908).]

Mr. F. H. Waterhouse's 'Index Generum Avium,' containing a list of all the generic terms proposed in the Class of Birds from the time of Linnæus down to 1889, is a work of great value to the ornithologist and well known to all of us. In 1902 Mr. Richmond published a supplement to Mr. Waterhouse's work \* containing 675 additional names. Of these 475 had been instituted as new after the appearance of the 'Index,' while the remainder consisted of terms overlooked by Waterhouse or requiring correction. Mr. Richmond

<sup>\* &</sup>quot;List of Generic Terms proposed for Birds during the Years 1890 to 1900 inclusive, to which are added Names omitted by Waterhouse in his 'Index Generum Avium,'" Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xxiv. no. 1267 (1902).

now gives us what may be regarded as a continuation of his former 'List,' drawn up in exactly the same way. It contains some 200 generic names introduced as new during the years from 1901 to 1905 inclusive, together with about 350 others of earlier date, the majority of which were not recorded by Waterhouse.

For this new 'List,' as for the former, ornithologists owe Mr. Richmond their most sincere thanks. It will save them many weary hours of severe labour by indicating exactly when and where any particular generic name has been first proposed. So far as we have been able to judge, it has been prepared with great care, and merits our warmest commendation. As in Mr. Richmond's former 'List,' each name is accompanied by an explanation of its origin. Of course, authors of new names do not always tell us from what they are derived, so in such cases the derivations have to be guessed, but this is not usually a difficult matter. This part of the work, we are informed, is largely due to Mr. H. C. Oberholser, and was finally submitted to Dr. Theodore Gill for revision.

While, however, we fully recognise the merits of Mr. Richmond's work, we do not at all approve of the use that is likely to be made of it. Mr. Richmond and his friends, of what we may call the "ultra-prioritarian" school, have discovered some hitherto little-known works and memoirs, which, if recognised, would cause changes in some of our oldest and most familiar generic names. For example, it appears that Bechstein first proposed the name "Accentor" for the Dippers, but afterwards transferred it to the Hedge-Sparrows and used "Cinclus" for the Dippers. Mr. Richmond's view is that "Accentor" is, therefore, a mere synonym of Cinclus," and should not be used at all! The Hedge-Sparrows are to be called "Laiscopus"—the next earliest generic name given to them. It is difficult to realize the confusion that would arise from such a change in the name of one of our commonest and best-known birds. But this is merely a sample of many similar proposals to change wellestablished names for others that are practically new. We

y Very gr

venture to prophecy—at any rate, we hope—that such innovations will not meet with much serious support. We recommend Mr. Richmond to study Mr. Boulenger's paper "On the Abuses resulting from the Application of the Rule of Priority in Zoological Nomenclature, and on the Means of protecting well-established Names," read before Sect. D at the Meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science at Dublin in 1908.

# 45. South African Ornithologists' Union, Journal of the.

[The Journal of the South African Ornithologists' Union. Vol. IV. Nos. 2, 3, and Supplement (Oct. 1908–Jan. 1909).]

The third number consists merely of the Titlepage, Index, and so forth, but the six papers in the second number are of considerable interest. First, we have the Report of the Committee for Migration for the Years 1906 and 1907. The species selected for observation were six, namely the European Swallow, the Bee-eater, the Lesser Kestrel, the Greenshank, the White Stork, and the Black-winged Pratincole. Circulars were sent out to Members of the Union and others, but the results proved disappointing, as few of the accompanying cards were returned with the requisite details. A good beginning has, however, been made, and we may expect to gain much information in the future from the fifteen South African observing-stations.

In a second paper Mr. J. A. Bucknill commences an account of the birds' eggs in the Transvaal Museum at Pretoria, collected in many cases by Messrs. Austin Roberts, R. H. Ivy, Krantz, Wilde, and Major Sparrow. Both nests and eggs are described, and of the latter measurements are given. Special attention should be called to the eggs of the various Cuekoos, to that of *Turdus cabanisi* (apparently undescribed before), and to that of *Poliohierax semitor-quatus* (certainly new to science).

In a third paper Mr. C. G. Davies discusses the Wildfowl and Water-birds of Matatiele, E. Griqualand; while the remaining articles are from the pen of Mr. E. C. Chubb. These contain a description of the nest and eggs (with

plate) of *Podica petersi*, from the Umguza River near Bulawayo, a bird whose nesting-habits have not previously been recorded; notes on Birds collected or observed at the Khami River in Matabeleland, and others on those obtained by the writer in the north of the same country, including the new species *Poliospiza mennelli* (cf. Bull. B. O. C. vol. xxi. p. 62, 1908).

In the "Occasional Notes" will be found an interesting letter from Mr. Bucknill, now resident in Cyprus, on the Birds of that island, and a note on the colouring-matter of the remiges of *Turacus corythaix* by Mr. Draper.

Lastly, the Supplement consists of Pamphlet No. 1 of the Bird Protection Committee, entitled "The South African Birds-of-Prey, their Economic Relations to Man," a particularly interesting sketch of the subject being elaborated at some length, with illustrations, by that well-known South African ornithologist Mr. Alwin Haagner.

#### 46. Ussher on Irish Birds.

[National Museum of Science and Art, Dublin. General Guide to the Natural History Collections. A List of Irish Birds, shewing the Species contained in the National Collection. By Richard J. Ussher. Dublin, 1908. 54 pp.]

No more capable person could have been chosen to compile this List than Mr. Ussher, the well-known joint-author of the 'Birds of Ireland,' and a worthy successor of A. G. More, who issued a similar catalogue in 1885, followed by a second edition in 1890. The records have been made as complete as possible, but we are informed that the Little Bunting and Pallas's Grasshopper-Warbler have been added to the Irish List since this pamphlet was published, and also that the Reed-Warbler has been taken on the coast.

Mr. Ussher is careful to include in square brackets all the species which he considers either doubtful or, as in the case of American land-birds, to have probably received "assisted passages," and we notice that he thus brackets the recent record of the Canadian Crane. The reader is recommended to take special note of the Introduction, and in particular of the species now bracketed which were admitted by Mr. More, such as the Marsh-Titmouse and the Lesser Spotted Woodpecker. We should hardly have considered it necessary, however, to bracket the Kite, so common in Great Britain of old, as individuals from Wales must surely at times have crossed (and even now may cross) the sea to Ireland.

#### 47. Van Oort on a new Macruropsar.

[On Macruropsar magnus brevicauda, nov. subsp., from the Island of Mefour. By Dr. E. D. Van Oort. Notes Leyd. Mus. xxx. p. 69 (1908).]

Macruropsar magnus of Schlegel is represented in the Leyden Museum by a series of specimens from the island Soek or Soepiori, of the Schouten group, collected by v. Rosenberg, which all agree with one another. On the other hand, all examples of the same form from Mefour, though similar in plumage, have shorter wings and tail. Dr. Van Oort characterizes them as constituting a new subspecies under the title M. m. brevicauda.

# 48. Van Oort on a new Chalcopsitta.

[On a new Species of *Chalcopsitta* from N.W. New Guinea. By Dr. E. D. Van Oort. T. c. p. 127.]

The "magnificent new species of Chalcopsitta," which it is proposed to call spectabilis, is nearly allied to C. insignis of Oustalet, but differs in many respects. The type-specimen, a male, was obtained by La Glaize in 1876 at Mambrioe in N.W. New Guinea.

# 49. Van Oort on the Birds of the Netherlands.

[Contribution to our Knowledge of the Avifauna of the Netherlands, being a List of all the Species of Birds hitherto observed, with Special References to Specimens in the Leyden Museum. By Dr. E. D. Van Oort. T. c. note xviii.]

The Ornithology of the Netherlands is of special interest to the students of British Bird-life, and we are glad to see that more attention has been paid to it of late years. Besides the present paper, we have received a copy of Baron Snouckaert van Schauburgh's 'Aves Neerlandicæ,' which we hope to be able to notice in our next number.

Dr. Van Oort's memoir contains a list of all the known birds of Holland, 335 in number according to his reckoning, with remarks, especially on those represented in the Leyden Museum. Schlegel, who ruled that Museum so long and so worthily, adhered stedfastly to the old-fashioned plan of having all the specimens mounted. The natural consequence was that the shelves became crowded with a large series of birds, which it was impossible for the Ornithologist of the present age to use. It has been left to his successors at Leyden to alter this inconvenient plan, and, if we understand rightly, Dr. Van Oort with the help of many friends is now hard at work on a "collection of indigenous birds" for purposes of comparison.

We must not forget to mention that the Leyden Museum has lately received a very valuable addition by the bequest to it of the well-known collection of native birds of the late Baron van Wickevoort Crommelin.

Following the recent inconvenient innovation, Dr. Van Oort commences his List of Netherland Birds at the After the name of each species he gives the number of specimens of it in the Leyden Museum, and particularizes special examples worthy of notice. He also gives the popular names in the language of Holland, which are more different from the ordinary English vernacular appellations than we should have expected. As regards nomenclature he is not a full-blown trinomialist, except in special cases, such as the Wagtails and Tits; but he allows "homonyms," which are ugly, especially when the same name is repeated three times over. He has also adopted the perverse practice of not altering the termination of a specific term when the genus is changed—hence such barbarities as Porzana parvus, Porzana pusillus, and Totanus maculata. There is not, so far as we know, any canon of the International (or any other) Code which sanctions this obvious violation of the Laws of grammar-laws which, to our minds, are of far greater importance than those of Priority.

We will now add one or two remarks, as we turn over the pages of Dr. Van Oort's paper.

Two specimens of *Gyps fulvus* have been killed in Holland, and help to authenticate the occurrence of the single British example.

Dr. Van Oort recognises three forms of Parus palustris as found in Holland, and calls them Parus communis longirostris, P. montanus salicarius, and P. montanus borealis. According to Baron Snouckaert a specimen of the last-named race has been obtained in North Brabant. Mr. Ogilvie-Grant has lately recorded its occurrence in England (Bull. B. O. C. vol. xxiii. p. 34).

Our author refers all the Dutch Creepers of which he has specimens at Leyden to Certhia brachydactyla.

An example of *Emberiza leucocephala*, said to have been captured alive on May 3rd, 1873, and subsequently kept in the Zoological Garden at Rotterdam, is now in the Leyden Museum. We believe that a single specimen of this eastern form of *Emberiza palustris* has recently been obtained in Great Britain (see Bull. B. O. C. vol. xxi. p. 104).

# 50. Verner on the Wild Birds of Spain.

[My Life among the Wild Birds of Spain. By Colonel Willoughby Verner (late Rifle Brigade). London: John Bale, Sons, and Danielsson, Ltd., 1909. 1 vol., large 8vo.]

All bird-lovers—especially if they happen to be, or have been, birds'-nesters—will, we think, be delighted with Col. Verner's volume, which gives us the chief experiences of a life devoted to bird-hunting, profusely illustrated by the facile pencil and ready camera of the talented author. Of narratives of the pursuit and destruction of the larger game-animals we have had a large supply of late years. We confess to be nearly satiated with these tales of slaughter, although there is often much to be learned by the Naturalist from their perusal. But Col. Verner's book is quite of a different character. Very rarely does he take the life of a parent-bird, although he helps himself to the eggs when they are specially required for his cabinet. In

fact, Col. Verner has supplied us with a complete manual of egg-hunting based on his own long experiences, and abundantly illustrated by his remarkable artistic talent.

Before commencing the main part of his work Col. Verner devotes several chapters to the preparations required by him who would go egg-hunting, and describes the paraphernalia required, as shown by his experiences during thirty-four years. Not only is the ordinary camping-out furniture described, but the ropes and shoes necessary for rock- and tree-climbing are distinctly specified. The leader of the expedition must "carry on his person" aneroid, watch, silk-rope, whistle, hunting-belt, swivels, knives, note-book, field-glass, telescope, compass, sketch-book, and small hand-camera; while ropes, canvas-sling, casting-line and weight, egg-boxes, and various other articles may be entrusted to his assistants.

After these preliminaries come chapters on the lagunas, plains, woodlands, sea-cliffs, and sierras of Southern Spain, and on the birds that specially resort to each of them. The larger birds naturally occupy most attention, but the smaller species are not forgotten.

"Among those which abound on the vega in spring is the handsome Calandra Lark (Alauda calandra), a fine bird with a conspicuous black gorget. Both this and the Common Bunting are very numerous. The pretty little Crested Lark is also abundant, its sweet flute-like call being constantly heard. The smaller Short-toed Larks of both species (Alauda brachydactyla and A. bætica) are also met with. The Common Fan-tail Warbler (Cisticola cursitans) is constantly to be seen and heard, its curious jerky flight and sharp staccato call making it easy to recognise."

In Southern Spain the Crane is the typical bird of the laguna, the Great Bustard of the plains, the Osprey of the shore, the Booted, Snake- and White-shouldered Eagles those of the forests, and the Griffon Vulture and Lammergeyer of the sierras; although these birds occasionally intrude into each other's domains. Full accounts are

supplied of the habits of all these fine birds and of the adventures of the author and his friends in their forays on their nesting-places. Excellent and most characteristic pictures are given of all of them.

We are particularly pleased to have such full details as to the nesting of the Black Vulture (Vultur monachus) and Whiteshouldered Eagle (Aquila adalberti). The latter is the Spanish representative of the Imperial Eagle of Eastern Europe, and though its eggs are usually "white with a few faint rufous marks," Col. Verner, in February 1878, obtained some eggs of this species "richly clouded with purple and blotched with rufous-brown." So abnormal were they that the late Henry Seebohm, who was a great collector of birds'-eggs, tried to persuade Col. Verner to alter the labels on them to "Golden Eagle," eggs of which they certainly closely resembled. But the Colonel was firm in his refusal to yield to this suggestion, having himself taken the specimens.

We must now close our remarks on this excellent piece of work. It is not, of course, a strictly scientific book, and does not contain a learned description, even of a new subspecies! But we have read every word of it ourselves and advise all who are interested in birds to do the same.

# XVII.—Letters, Extracts, and Notes.

WE have received the following letters addressed "To the Editors of 'The Ibis'":—

Sirs,—Two young birds of Parmoptila woodhousii lately examined are younger than that figured in the last number of 'The Ibis.' The little wattles at the gape in these specimens are very conspicuous, being quite white, while the margin of the skin on which they are situated is black. When the mouth is opened wide and the skin at the gape stretched, the open mouth appears to be bordered on each side by a row of white beads, strung, far apart, on a black string. The inside of the mouth, also, which is whitish in